and thus caused serious concern about the change of Indian border line with Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) The State Govenments of West Bengal as well as Farakka Barrage Project Authority are implementing various schemes suggested by the Expert Committee to take care of the problem. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 17.88 crore to Government of West Bengal as Central Assistance during IX Plan for anti-erosion schemes of West Bengal *inter-alia* covering the district of Murshidabad also.

(b) and (c) No information from the State Government in this connection has been received, so far.

Outcome of the Indo-French Conference

†1486. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research and Training Centre was inaugurated in February, 2002 under the aegis of Indo-French Technical and Scientific Co-operation to study water and waste management.

(b) if so, the outcome of such a conference;

(c) whether government have been benefited out of such a joint venture; and

(d) in what manner it would help to tackle the water problem that exists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCS (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A modern State of the art Indo-French Unit for Water and Waste Technologies has been established at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi under the aegis of Indo-French Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The facilities therein shall be available for training field functionaries working in Government, Industries and NGOs. It will help to train University Teachers and facilitate advanced technology transfer in the water and waste management. It will also help in tackling the water problems by providing facilities for water quality monitoring and control and by making available high lavel research facilities in the water sector.